大唐無雙之未來

5

狼派武俠漫畫

原作 喬靖夫
主編 葉偉青
東立

暴烈的叱喝。刺耳的銳音。粗濁的呼息。撲面的熱力。

座落武當山的「武當武場」有如一座不斷鼓風大洪爐。正在鑄煉打造世上最強的武道！

初登武當的侯英志深受感動，矢志修練武當劍法，成為高超劍士！

成都血戰進入尾聲，翦裂、燕橫跨過屍山血海，在武者修行的路途上了慘烈的一課。眼下只有不斷前進，才無負泉下英魂與同生共死的夥伴！

武當副掌門師星昊帶領「武當道」弟子御前獻技，剛柔並濟的太極拳力克八卦門拳士，震憾朝野！

西嶽華山派劍道，以「氣劍如一」妙技享譽天下三百餘年，武林共尊其為「劍宗」。無人能想像的事情發生了：當今世上竟有瘋狂的挑戰者，直上華山論劍——而且，只是一人！

「跟我交手，是你一生最大的榮幸。」

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武道狂之詩

原著 喬靖夫

作畫 葉偉青

袁建滔

5

【登場人物】

【樊崇】
武當派「首蛇道」中的精銳「褐蛇」成員，負責守衛武當山重責，能以「太極」揉合「梯雲縱」輕功的絕頂高手。身配數款飛劍、擅長暗器遠射。

【姚蓮舟】
武當現任掌門，太極拳創超凡入聖，誓要達成「天下無敵，稱霸武林」的宏願。其執念何來，至今仍然是個謎。

【師星昊】
武當派副掌門，前掌門公孫清之師弟，擁有深厚「太極拳」功力，主管「鎮龜道」專責訓練弟子。因年輕時與同門比試被毀傷容貌，長年以黑布巾幔面。

【桂丹雷】
武當派資深拳士，擔任「鎮龜道」代教師範，身材碩厚如鐵球。精通「太極拳」，雙掌經多年鍛鍊，能空手奪白刃。

【錫曉巖】
錫昭屏之同父異母胞弟，性情與兄長同樣暴烈。天生體型怪異，擅使剛猛絕倫的「陽極刀」，論剛勁冠絕武當山。

【侯英志】
原青城派「研修弟子」與鈍橫乃感情要好的兒時玩伴，終日刻苦鑽鍊，誓要成為人上之人的高超劍士。青城滅絕後，毅然投靠強大的武當派，不惜一切追求最強之道。

卷五新登場人物。

【荊裂】
福建「南海虎尊派」唯一傳人，遊歷四海修練異國武藝，矢志討伐武當派以報滅門之仇。曾誅殺多名武當弟子，被冠以「武當殺人」的稱號。

【虎玲蘭】
來自日本薩摩國，勇猛堅毅，不讓鬚眉的女劍士，擅使野太刀，為追尋背棄婚約的荊裂而遠赴中土。

【燕機】
原名燕小六，出身貧農，生性善良，好俠仗義的愛劍少年，是青城派最後一名「道傳弟子」。

【童靜】
成都第一大幫「岷江幫」幫主童伯雄的獨女，雖然生性嬌橫好勝，但俠骨仁心，熱愛武道。

【錢寧】
太監索叔出身，以左右開弓的妙射得到正德皇帝的賞識信任，擢升為錦衣衛都指揮使，為皇上形影不離的玩伴，性格貪婪狡黠，在朝廷中影響力甚廣。

【江彬】
本為關外游擊將軍，性格凶狠勇悍，因入關平亂立功，繼而由錢寧引薦面聖，憑著儀表與戰功成為皇帝另一寵臣，官拜四鎮統帥，指揮一支親兵「長宜京師」。

【朱厚照】
當今皇上，年號正德，時年僅廿三，性好逸樂而精力充沛，為史上有名之荒唐皇帝，熱愛武事，自設離宮「豹房」，終日玩樂練兵，並仇迷蕃教秘術，自號「大慶法王」。

BLOOD AND STEEL

Author: 喬靖夫 > Jozev
Manhua by 夢馬工作室 > Unicorn Studios
Comic Design > Felix Ip
Script: Toe Yuen

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敵無下天

【第二十一章】英雄不孤 〇〇五
【第二十二章】同伴 〇五一
【第二十三章】武當山 〇七一
【第二十四章】豹房御前比試 一〇九
【第二十五章】見性館 一六九

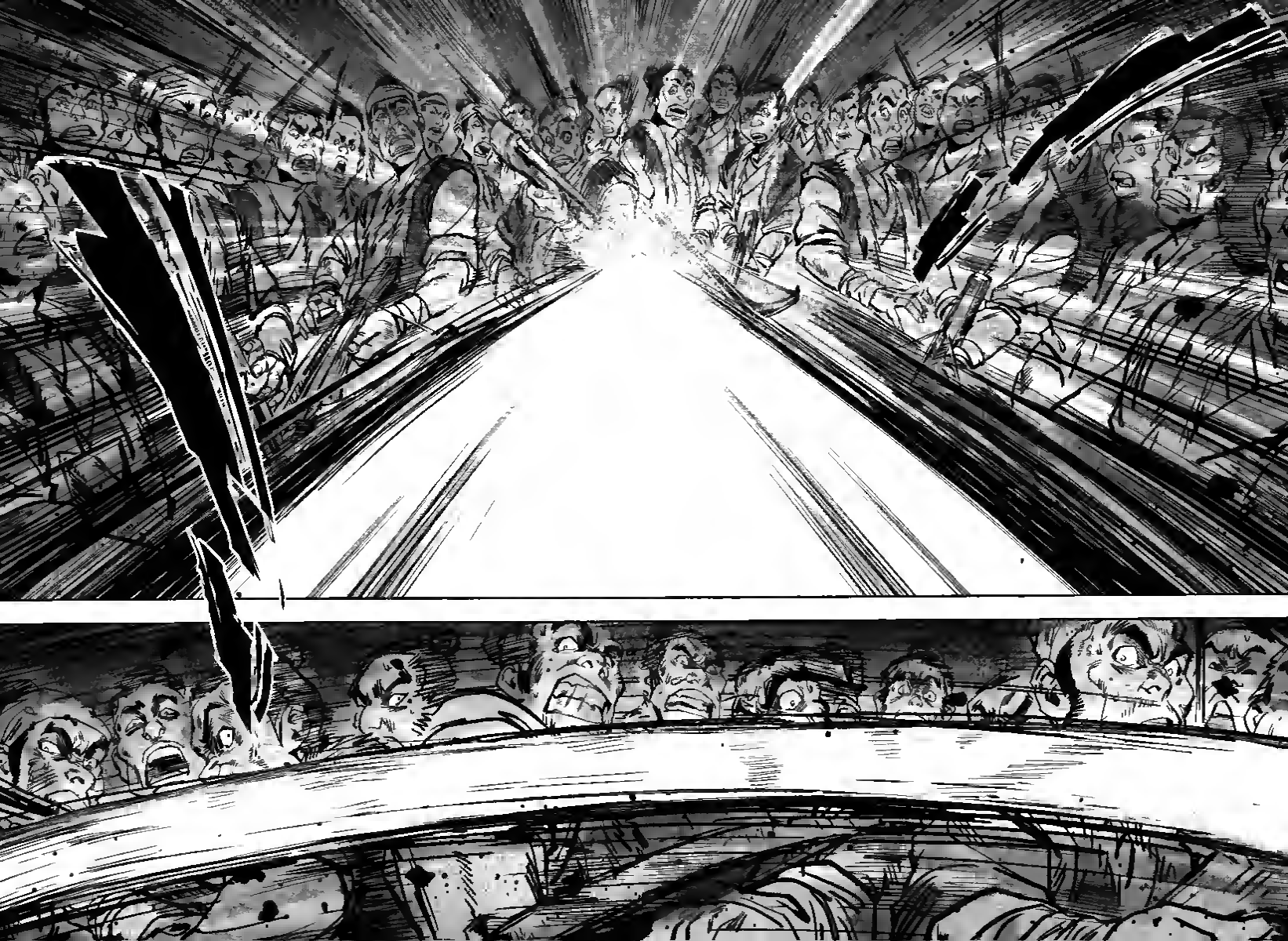
- Chapter 20 -
Heroes are
never alone

GO! YOU'LL DIE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!
I WON'T LET THESE GUYS HURT YOU
格
格
格
LOAD THE CROSS-BOWS!

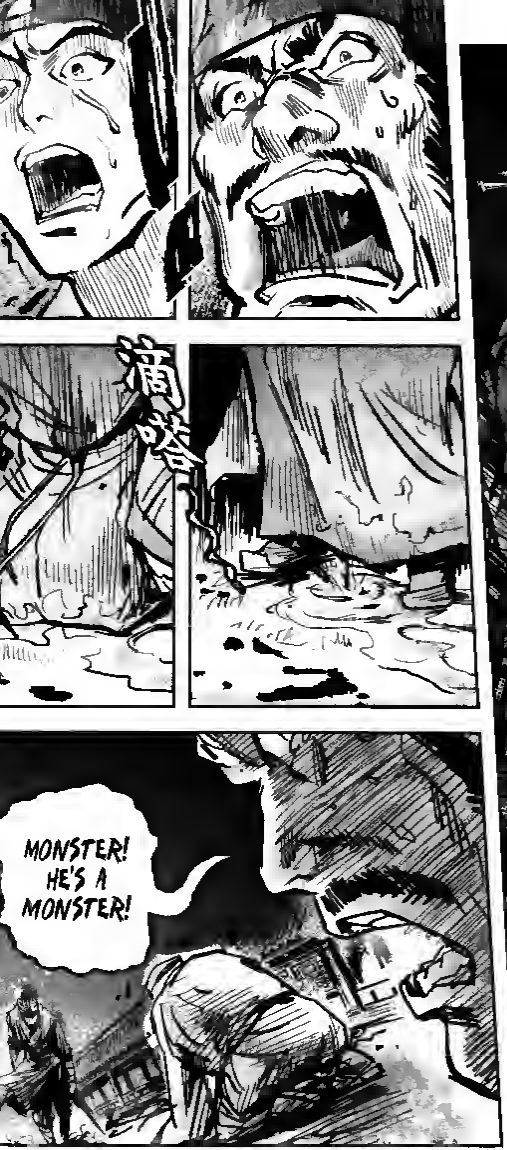
HURRY AND LEAVE!
STOP NAGGING. I WON'T LEAVE EVEN IF I DIE!
YOUR SKILLS ARE SO WEAK, WHAT'RE YOU PRETENDING TO BE A SWORDSMEN FOR?
SHOOT!

GET BACK!

WHAT ?!
SHOOT AGAIN!



呼
呼
哇
呼
哇
呼


MONSTER!
HE'S A
MONSTER!

*T/N Great hero

咻!

Heaven's
Break

ドサッ

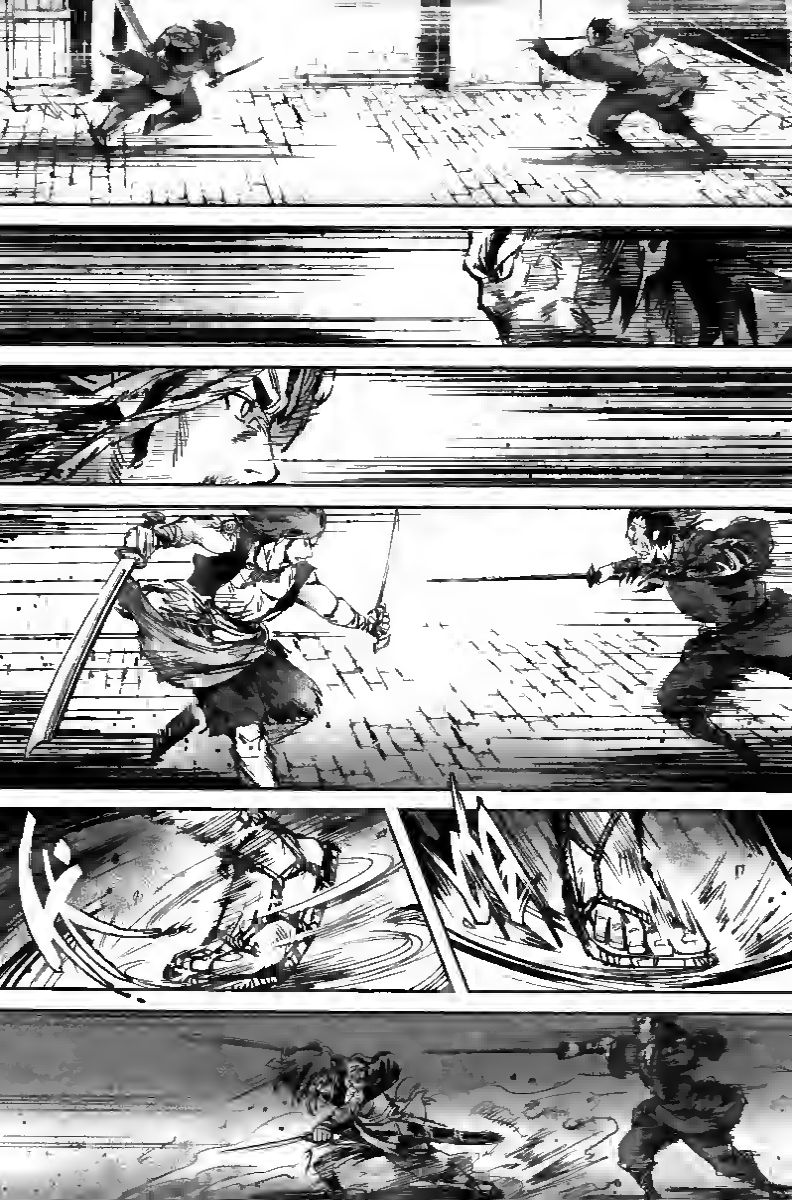
–This is the way a sword is used.
Tong Jing stares at the figure of this Qing-Chen wuxia. Her eyes contain a mixture of fear and awe.

This was Yan Heng's first step into the world of martial arts...
For a family he didn't even know, he destroyed Chengdu's second largest gang.

BUT...
I'M THINKING THE SAME...
I'M THINKING OF HOW I CAN USE MY LAST DROP OF STRENGTH TO PLUNGE MY SPEAR INTO ONE OF MY ENEMIES.

TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE THINKING.
THEN, IT'LL BE ALL UP TO YOU.
I'LL NEED YOUR STRENGTH IN A MOMENT.

WE'LL BET ON THIS MOVE!
HU LINGLAN, GET THE BACK!



If he can't take the hunter's head, how can he wear the Bing Ya cloth again?
Losing three Bing Ya and the messenger in one day
In Jiang Yunlan's 23 years in Wudang, he has never before been so humiliated
At this moment, the only thing in Jiang Yunlan's eyes is Jing Lie—

JING LIE!
Great Forgiving Palm!

IN MY WAY AGAIN!

WUYUE!

KILL HIM!

BITE
STRIKE HIM...
TOGETHER WITH ME... STRIKE...
Both of Son Wuyue's hands are gone, and his family is dead... He has nothing left in this world
To take another great martial artist down with him is his final wish...
But Jing Lie can't do it.
To bring his blade down on his companion... He can't do it.
Even though Son Wuyue's about to die, he's still his companion.

There's still the woman!
My life ends here!

Flying
Sparrow

Like Jing Lie, Hu Lingfan couldn't bear to strike the person who had saved her

Jing Lie and Linglan have already expended 70-80% of their strength
Against a more skilled martial artist with nothing but a few light injuries, their chances are slim.

But even before, Jing Lie or Lingfan could have killed him along with Wuyue
For one, his prized sword is broken
They don't know that Yunlan feels the same way
He has lost all of Wudang Bing Ya's honor
The hunter chose to abandon his prey

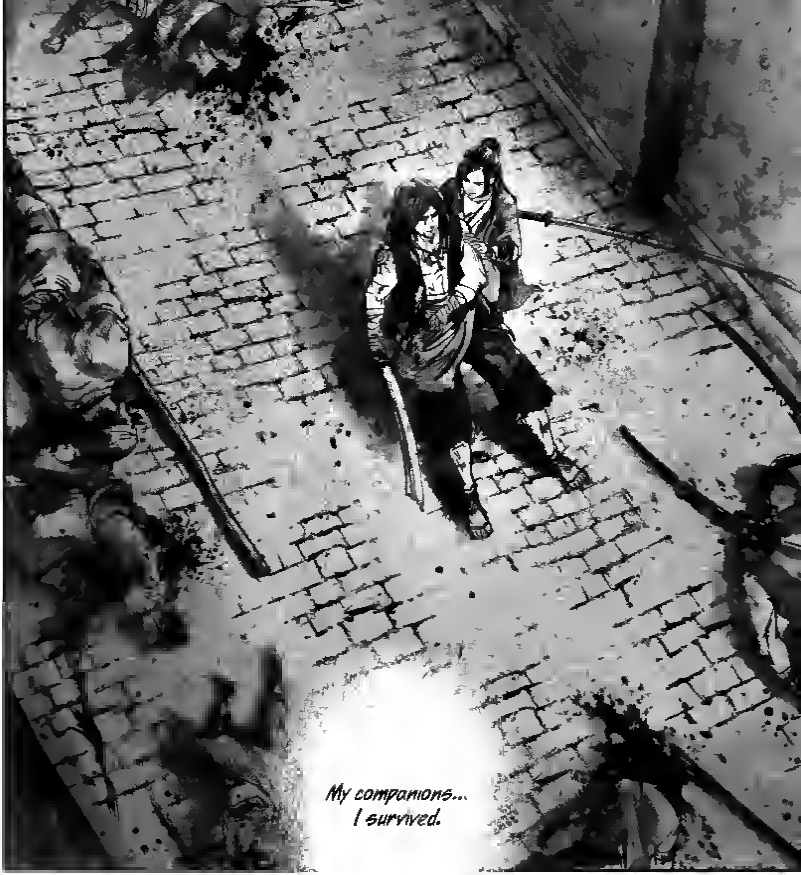
!!

DON'T THINK YOU WON THIS TIME.
I KNOW.

UNTIL YOU KILL US.
OR UNTIL WE KILL YOU.

IN THE FACE OF WUDANG, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A PEBBLE IN OUR WAY.
KEEP IT UP. LET'S SEE HOW MANY MORE NIGHTS LIKE THIS YOU CAN SURVIVE.

JING LIE.
CARE TO LEAVE A NAME?
YES! YOU HAVE A DEAL.
JING LIE...
I WON'T ENJOY IT UNLESS I KILL YOU FAIR AND SQUARE IN A MARTIAL ARTS MATCH.


My companions...
I survived.

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- Chapter 21 -
Companion

EVEN WHILE YOU WERE UNCON SCIOUS YOU DIDN'T LET GO OF YOUR SWORD.
YAN XIA, YOU'RE AWAKE!
THIS SHIP... WHAT'S GOING ON...?
TO AVOID WUDANG, THE MIN JIANG GANG DID SOME SMUGGLING LAST NIGHT,
TO HELP GET YOU OUT OF TOWN AS WELL AS TO RETRIEVE YOUR WEAPONS.
THEN WE LEFT CHENGDU AND ARE NOW ON THE RIVER.
BUT I STILL HAVE FRIENDS IN CHEN-GDU...
DON'T WORRY. JING LIE AND LINGLAN ARE BOTH HERE.

NO... WAIT A MOMENT.
FOLLOW ME!
WHO'S THIS LINGLAN?
REALLY? JING LIE IS ON THE BOAT?
SHE SAID HER FAMILY WAS POOR AND HAD NOTHING TO GIVE, SO SHE MADE THIS HANDKERCHIEF AS A TOKEN.
BEFORE LEAVING THE CITY, GRANDMA WONG WANTED ME TO GIVE YOU THIS FOR AVENGING HER FAMILY'S DEATH.
I HAVE ONE REQUEST.
ALSO...

PLEASE LET ME LEARN MARTIAL ARTS FROM YOU AND JING LIE!
LADY TONG, PLEASE NAME IT.
....HOW...?
DON'T JOKE AROUND ...
HOW AM I QUALIFIED TO BE ANOTHER PERSON'S MASTER?
I'VE LOVED BLADES AND SWORDS EVER SINCE I WAS YOUNG. I'VE STUDIED UNDER 20 OR 30 MARTIAL ARTISTS.
I THOUGHT THAT BY STUDYING UNDER THEM, I'D BECOME ACCOMPLISHED.

BUT LAST NIGHT, WATCHING YOUR SWORD TECHNIQUES I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THE TRUE WAY OF THE SWORD
IN THE FACE OF REAL MARTIAL ARTS, THE THINGS I LEARNED BEFORE WERE ALL CHILD'S PLAY. ALL I DID WAS WASTE MY TIME.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S A MARTIAL ARTS FANATIC...
FATE HAS ALLOWED ME TO MEET YOU. I WON'T LET THIS CHANCE GO
MY FATHER'S HEAD OF THE MIN JIANG GANG, THUS, I'M ALSO PART OF THE MIN JIANG NONE OF THE FAMOUS MARTIAL ARTS STYLES WOULD ACCEPT ME AS A STUDENT.
JING LIE!
BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW, LEARNING FROM US MAKES YOU PART OF OUR QUEST TO FIGHT WUDANG. IT'S DANGEROUS, YOU KNOW

AND THERE'S ONE MORE THING YOU SHOULD KNOW...
TO LEARN SWORD TECHNIQUES LIKE HIS, DETERMINATION ISN'T ENOUGH. THE FIRST THING TO LOOK AT IS NATURAL TALENT *
THE REASON YOU DIDN'T LEARN MUCH MIGHT NOT BE BECAUSE OF YOUR TEACHERS, BUT RATHER BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE THE TALENT.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: NATURAL TALENT REFERS TO THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND MOREOVER, THE REACTION TIME. ALTHOUGH YOU CAN TRAIN YOUR REACTION TIME TO A CERTAIN EXTENT. THE DEGREE NEEDED FOR SWORD TECHNIQUES IS STILL DEPENDENT ON NATURAL TALENT.

WE'RE STILL YOUNG; YOU CAN JUST TREAT US LIKE BROTHERS.
ONE LAST THING. DON'T CALL US MASTER.
Jing Lie can't be serious...
Okay! Jing Lie!

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS?
I CAN'T GO BACK NOW.

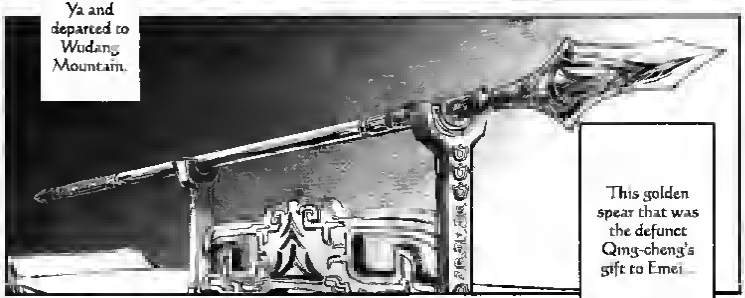
JUST LET THEM COME AND FIND ME.
YOU KILLED A WUDANG MEMBER. IT'LL BE DANGEROUS IF YOU STAY.
EVEN IF THEY'RE PEOPLE LIKE YOU AND ME.
IN BATTLE, WE NEED COMPA-NIONS.

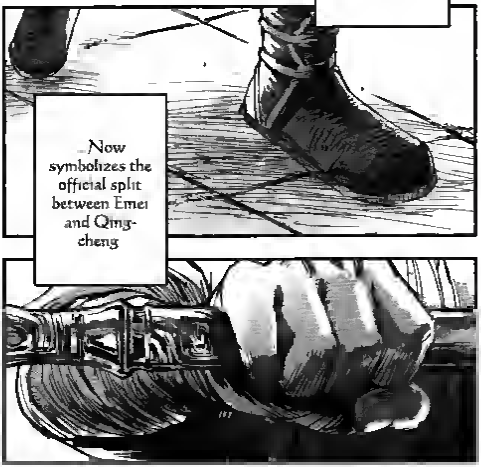
YES.
JING LIE...
SHE IS LINGLAN?
IT WAS NOTHING MUCH....
JUDGING BY THOSE WOUNDS, IT MUST'VE BEEN A FIERCE FIGHT LAST NIGHT.
BUT, BEFORE HEARING MY TALE, I WANT TO HEAR THE ONE ABOUT THE QING-CHENG WUXIA WHO WIPED OUT THE MA PAI GANG.
YOU WERE LUCKY. IF YOU'D HAVE GONE WITH ME, IT WOULD'VE BEEN A HUNDRED TIMES MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE MA PAI GANG. YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN HAVE SURVIVED...
ACTUALLY ...
IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS TOO FOOLISH AND DIDN'T GO FIND YOU.

Two days later Ye Chenyuan lead Wudang's troops up to Emei Mountain
...Straight to the main hall. And no one dared to stop them.

ガキン
ドン!
!!

After slicing off Sun Wuyue's head, Jiang Yunlan didn't go up to Emei Mountain
He relinquished his status of being part of Bing Ya and departed to Wudang Mountain.

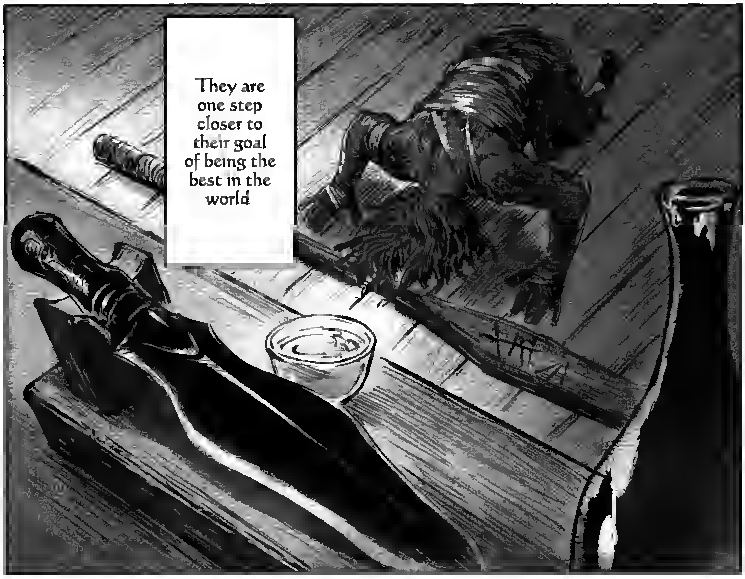

This golden spear that was the defunct Qing-cheng's gift to Emei...


...Now symbolizes the official split between Emei and Qing-cheng

Yu Qingfu had prepared a speech for the alliance between Emei and Wudang
But not one word was spoken
ダッ

Honor and pride is the wall guarding the hearts of martial artists
Once you've given in, just like repairable cracks in a wall...
...Collapse is inevitable.

Wudang have conquered all the martial arts styles in Sichuan


They are one step closer to their goal of being the best in the world

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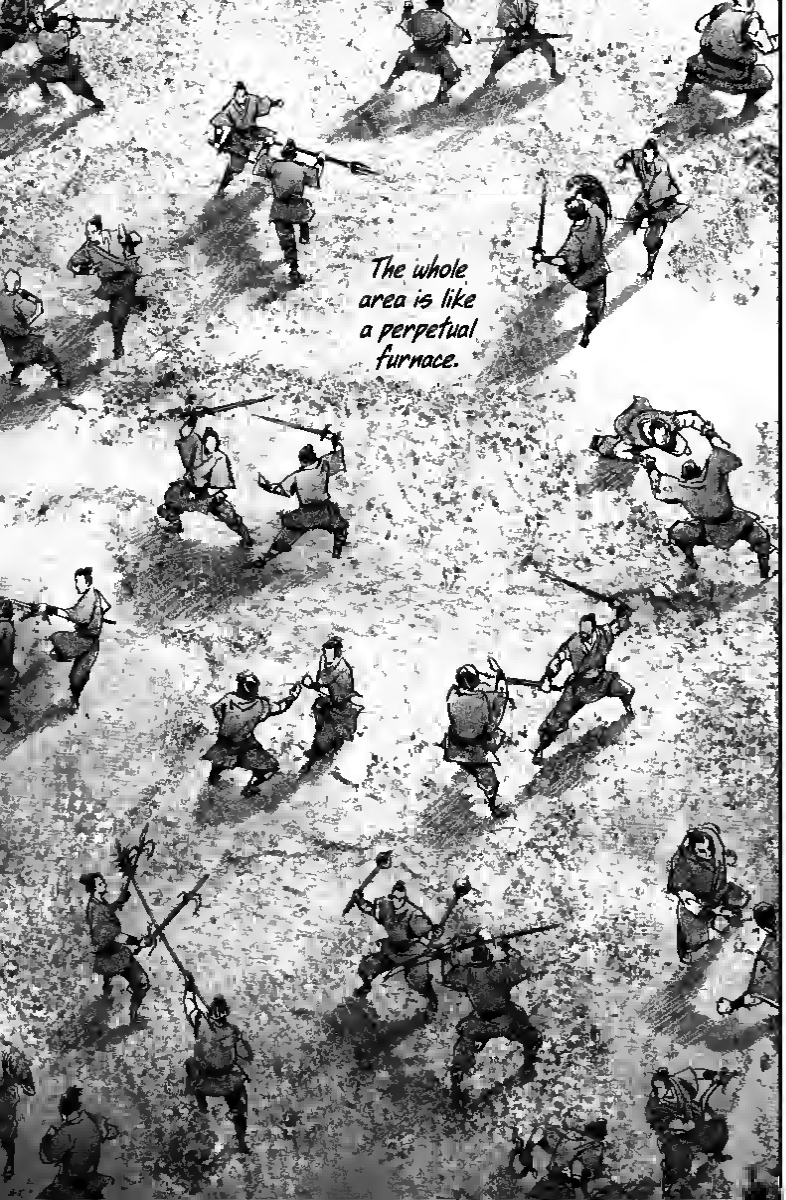
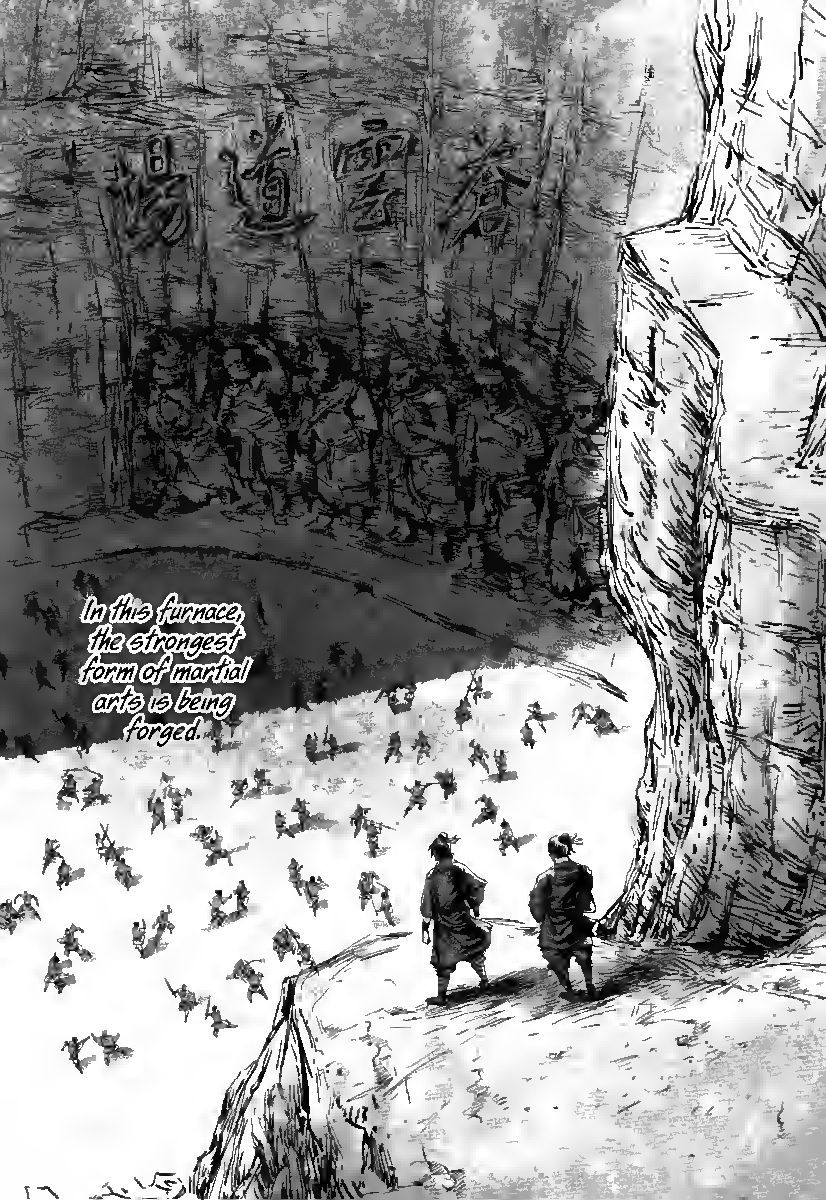
- Chapter 22 -
Wudang
Mountain

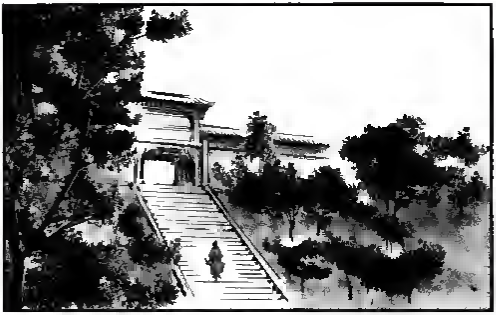
The violent shouts, the heavy sounds of breathing . .
The sharp noises...
The over-whelming heat of the swords...

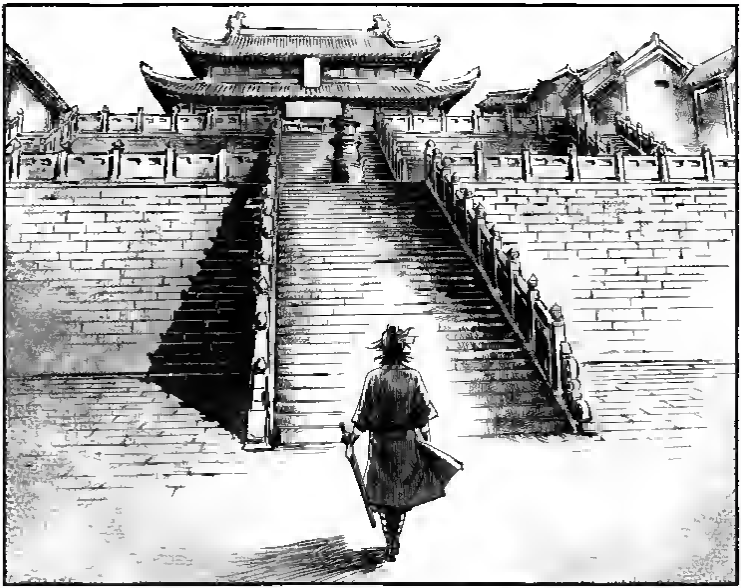
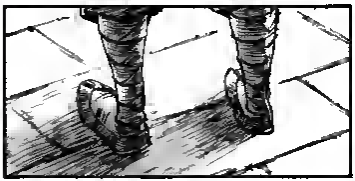

The whole area is like a perpetual furnace.


In this furnace, the strongest form of martial arts is being forged.

Everyone in Wudang lived under these conditions, with the mountain as the only backdrop.
Hou Yingzhi suddenly realized...
...Why the idea of being the best in the world was born here.
ARE YOU AFRAID? IF YOU ARE, GO BACK DOWN WUDANG MOUNTAIN IMMEDIATELY!
SENIOR XI, HOW SHOULD I BEGIN?

One hour earlier.



PLEASE SHOW YOURSELF AND GUIDE ME.
I KNOW. IF I WEREN'T CARRYING THIS SWORD, I'D BE LYING SPLATTERED ALONG THE ROAD.
YOU'RE AN INTERE-STING GUY.

THE WAY YOU LAND... IS IT TAICHI TOO?

I ONCE SAW ASSISTANT MASTER YAN USE TAICHI, SO I GUESSED .
YOU'VE SEEN TAICHI BEFORE?
THE MARTIAL ART YOU SAW BACK THEN WASN'T JUST WUDANG'S CLOUD CLIMBING STEP FOOT TECHNIQUE.
BUT A COMBINATION WITH TAICHI ON THE LEGS TO FULLY NULLIFY THE IMPACT.
HAHAHA! THAT'S WHY I SAID THAT YOU'RE INTERESTING ASSISTANT MASTER YAN CHOSE WELL.

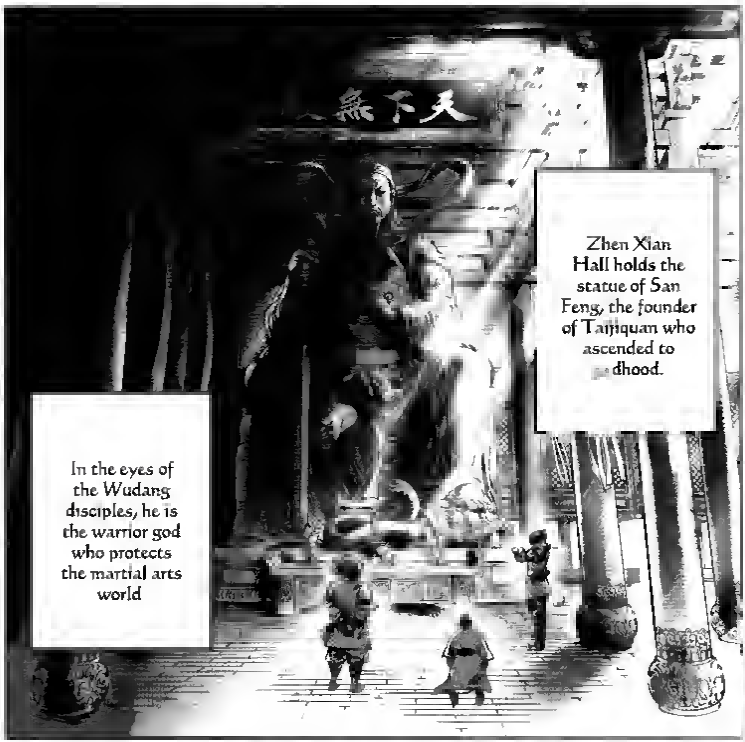
NEW DISCIPLE, HOU YINGZHI, BOWS BEFORE THIS STYLE'S SENIOR.
MY NAME'S FAN ZONG, AND I'M IN CHARGE OF PROTECTING WUDANG MOUNTAIN
YOU MAY CALL ME SENIOR FROM NOW ON.

WHY DIDN'T I MEET ANYONE ELSE?
WHERE DID EVERYONE ELSE GO?
THEY ALL WENT TO TRAIN.
RIGHT NOW, THE HEAD-MASTER IS IN ISOLATION, AND THE ASSISTANT MASTER IS IN JINGSHI.
WUDANG MOUNTAIN IS CURRENTLY BEING RUN BY GUI DAN.
I'M BRINGING YOU TO HIM.

真修
……

GO!
GOOD!

WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR? IF YOU'RE TO ADOPT THIS STYLE, YOU MUST BOW BEFORE THE FOUNDER!


Zhen Xian Hall holds the statue of San Feng, the founder of Taijiquan who ascended to dhood.
In the eyes of the Wudang disciples, he is the warrior god who protects the martial arts world

AS LONG AS YOU'VE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ASSISTANT HEADMASTER IN SICHUAN, EVERYTHING IS GOOD TO GO.
IN THE PAST TWENTY YEARS, WUDANG HAS NEVER CARED ABOUT FORMAL CEREMONIES OR TRADITIONS.

HAVE A LOOK ON THE THINGS YOU CAN LEARN.
DON'T WORRY. IF YOU WANT TO LOOK, GO AHEAD.
WUDANG HAS NO TABOO ABOUT WATCHING OTHERS TRAIN.
AFTER LOOKING HUNDREDS OF TIMES, THE ONES WITHOUT MIGHT STILL NOT LEARN IT.
WE AREN'T AFRAID TO TEACH THE ONES WITH TALENT, WE'RE ONLY AFRAID THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LEARN FAST ENOUGH.

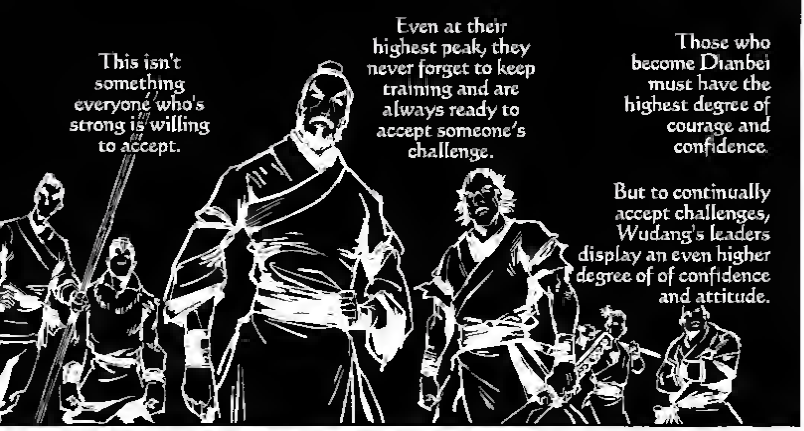
Upon seeing how open Wudang's teachings were and how Wudang had completely defeated Qing-cheng
Hou Yingzhi never got over the fact that Yan Heng became a true disciple and he didn't.
He doesn't believe there are martial arts Yan Heng can learn but he can't
...Hou Yingzhi felt like his notions had been confirmed.
THESE THREE ARE "DIANBEI"...
DIANBEI?
ONLY ONE THING MATTERS
WUDANG'S HEADMASTER HIS SENIORITY, HIS VIRTUES NONE OF IT MATTERS

STRENGTH!
THE STRONGEST IN WUDANG ... THE STRONGEST PERSON BECOMES HEADMASTER. IT'S THAT SIMPLE.

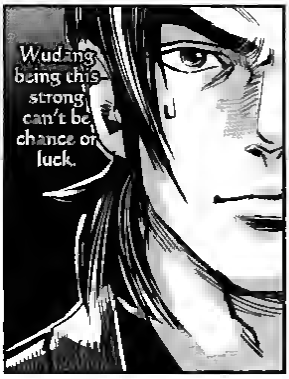
YES
THAT MEANS... IF SOMEONE STRONGER THAN HIM APPEARS, THE HEADMASTER ... WILL CHANGE?
WE ALSO CREATED THREE ASSISTANT MASTERS WHO MANAGE INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAVE A HIGHER POSITION. FURTHERMORE...
...THEY HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO CHALLENGE THE HEADMASTER EVERY YEAR

DIANBEI ARE THOSE WHO WISH TO CHALLENGE AN ASSISTANT HEADMASTER.
ONCE IT'S ANNOUNCED, THEY HAVE ONE YEAR TO CHALLENGE ANY OF THE ASSISTANT MASTERS.
DURING THIS YEAR, ALL OF WUDANG WILL ASSIST THE DIANBEI, TO GIVE THEM THE BEST TRAINING

BUT... WHAT DO YOU DO TO BECOME A DIANBEI?
NOTHING. IF YOU HAVE THE CONFIDENCE, YOU CAN BE A DIANBEI TOMORROW. ANYONE IN WUDANG CAN BECOME A DIANBEI.
ANYONE HAS THE CHANCE TO BECOME HEADMASTER.


This isn't something everyone who's strong is willing to accept.
Even at their highest peak, they never forget to keep training and are always ready to accept someone's challenge.
Those who become Dianbei must have the highest degree of courage and confidence.
But to continually accept challenges, Wudang's leaders display an even higher degree of of confidence and attitude.

NOT A SINGLE ONE.
SENIOR GUI, UP UNTIL TODAY, HAS ANYONE MANAGED TO DEFEAT AN ASSISTANT MASTER?


Wudang being this strong can't be chance or luck.

I'M BRINGING YOU TO THEM RIGHT NOW.

THEN... WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM AFTERWARDS?

SOME OF THE ONES LYING HERE HAD BARELY ENTERED WUDANG
THERE ARE OTHERS WHO DIDN'T EVEN LEARN MARTIAL ARTS.
甘盈珠
BUT EVERY ONE OF THEM REMAINS A WUDANG DISCIPLE
WILL BE RECORDED IN THE LEGEND OF THE INVINCIBLE WUDANG
TO FORGE THE STRONGEST MARTIAL ARTS' ARM, THIS IS A NECESSARY SACRIFICE.
THE BLOOD AND LIFE THEY HAVE GIVEN...

NOT ONLY THEM.
THERE ARE TENS OF OTHERS, CRIPPLED, WHO STILL CONTRIBUTE TO WUDANG.

OTHERS MAKE AND MEND ROBES AND CLOTHES.
SOME MAKE AND REPAIR WEAPONS AND FIX THE MACHINES...

WE WILL NEVER EXPEL ANY DISCIPLE
EVEN IF THEY CAN'T DO ANYTHING, AS LONG AS THEY'VE ENTERED, THEY CAN STAY.
BUT ONCE YOU ENTER THE MOUNTAIN, YOU HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO LIE HERE.

WHEN THE ASSISTANT HEAD-MASTER ACCEPTED ME, I ALREADY SAID THIS.
I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT I'VE ALREADY DIED
GOOD, THEN YOU'LL START TOMORROW.
IF POSSIBLE, I'D LIKE TO START TODAY.
THE SUN IS STILL HIGH.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
DID SOMEONE RETURN FROM SICHUAN?

DID YOU BRING ANY NEWS FROM SICHUAN?
IT'S A NEW DISCIPLE ACCEPTED BY THE ASSISTANT HEAD-MASTER...
XIAO YAN, HOW WOULD HE KNOW WHO YOUR BROTHER IS !?
WAS THE BATTLE AGAINST QING-CHENG BEAUTIFUL?
WHAT ABOUT MY BROTHER? HOW MANY DID HE KILL?
I KNOW.
YOUR BROTHER MUST BE XIAO ZHAOPING CORRECT?
YES! DO WE LOOK ALIKE?
ANYWAY, HOW'S MY BROTHER DOING IN SICHUAN?

I USED TO BE A QING-CHENG DISCIPLE.
YOU... HOW DO YOU KNOW?
HE WAS KILLED ON QING-CHENG MOUNTAIN.
WHO KILLED HIM?
WHO IN QING-CHENG HAS THE ABILITY TO KILL HIM?
HUNTER!
I HEARD THE ASSISTANT HEADMASTER CALL HIM THE HUNTER...
THE MURDERER WASN'T FROM QING-CHENG

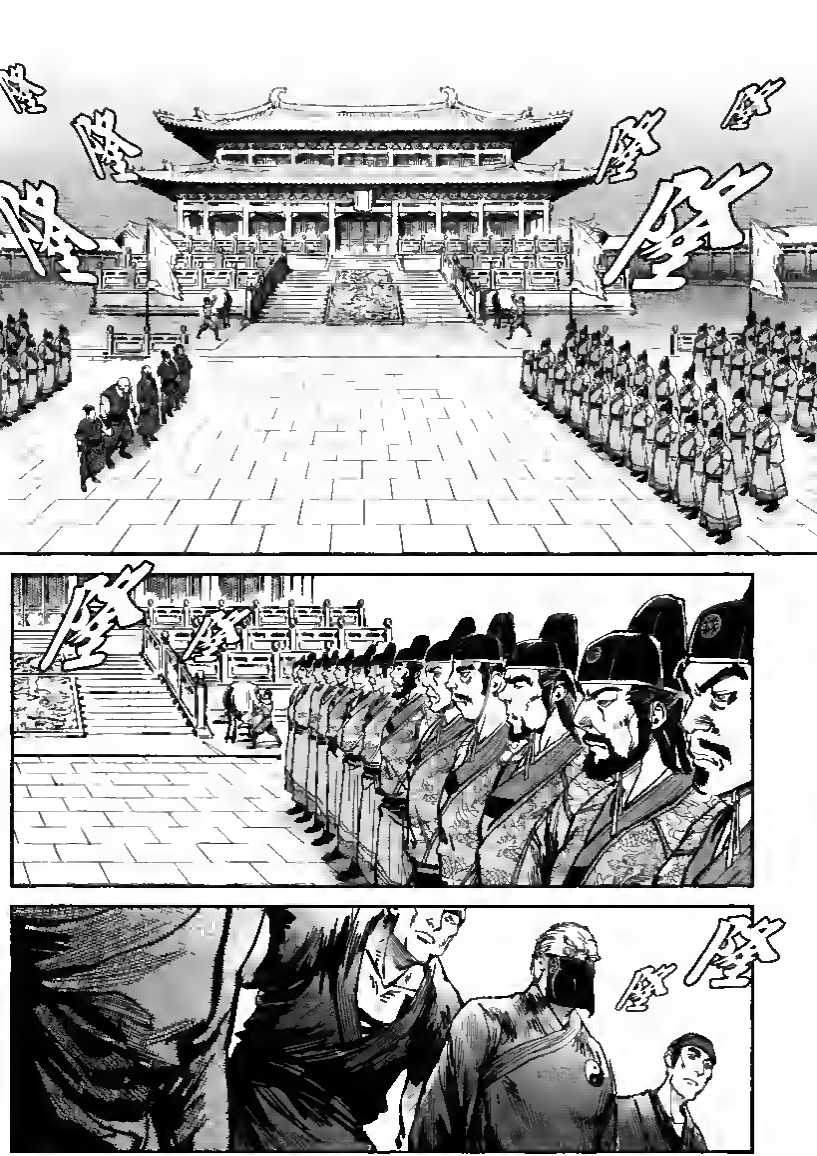
NO!
MY BROTHER'S ABILITIES... HE COULDN'T
THE HUNTER IS VERY CUNNING. MAYBE HE WAS AMBUSHED...
WE NEED TO RE-EVALUATE THE HUNTER'S STRENGTH.
XIAO YAN, I HAVE SOMETHING TO DISCUSS WITH FAN ZONG
YOU TAKE HOU YINGZHI TO THE TRAINING GROUNDS AND LET HIM SEE THE TRUE WUDANG SPIRIT

YOU... YOU WANT ME TO TAKE THIS QING-CHENG DISCI-PLE...?
PLEASE, LEAD THE WAY

DON'T YOU FIND IT ODD THAT THIS HAPPENED IN SICHUAN, BUT THE ASSISTANT MASTER DIDN'T SEND A LETTER?
WE SHOULD DISCUSS IT WITH THE HEADMASTER
THEN I'LL GO SEE THE HEADMASTER AND ASK HIM TO COME DOWN.
HMM. GO AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE

Jiang Yunlan knows the way to Wudang better than Hou Yingzhi and in theory, should have returned a day earlier. But for unknown reasons, he still isn't back.
They didn't know that after the slaughter at Chengdu, Jiang Yunlan had left the army and was in charge of bringing back the news

WHY DO I HAVE A BAD FEELING ?
COULD IT BE BECAUSE OF THE HUNTER ... ?
EVEN IF HE KILLED XIAO ZHAOPING, IT'S NOTHING TO BE AMAZED AT.
NOTHING IN THE WORLD CAN SHAKE WUDANG..



GRAND CELEBRATION MASTER YUZI!

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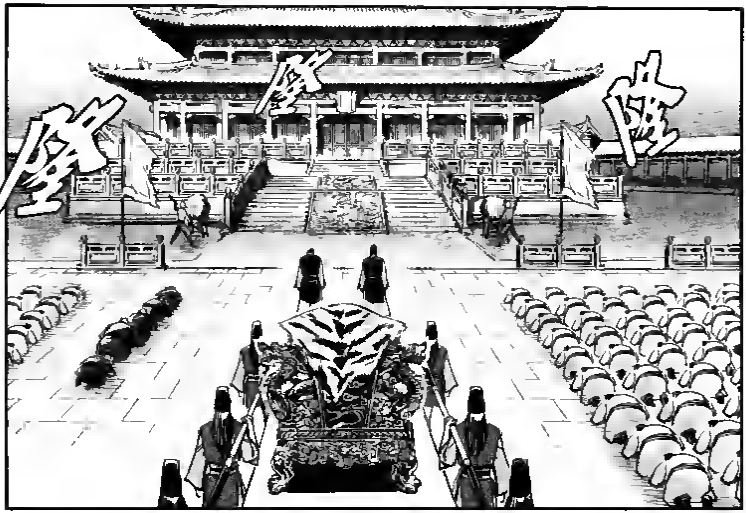
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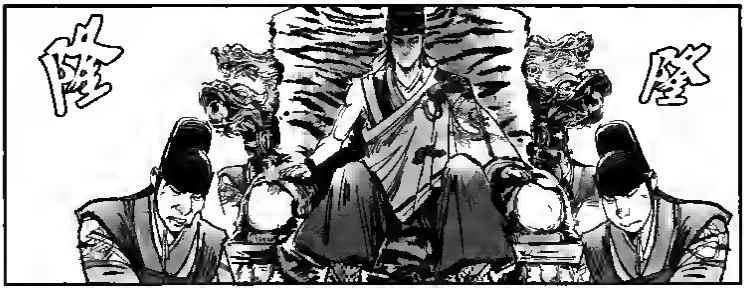
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LONG LIVE, LONG LIVE, LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR.
The one filled with energy and clothed as Great Celebration Master Yuzi isn't just anyone, but the current Emperor, Zhu Hou Zhao.

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- Chapter 24 -
Duel before
Baofang

HOW DARE YOU!
The current emperor is known for his love of martial arts. The two standing beside him gained the emperor's favor because of their martial arts skills.
WHY IS SOME RANDOM MARTIAL ARTIST HIDING HIS FACE FROM THE EMPEROR?

Uniformed Guard Commander

Jiangbin

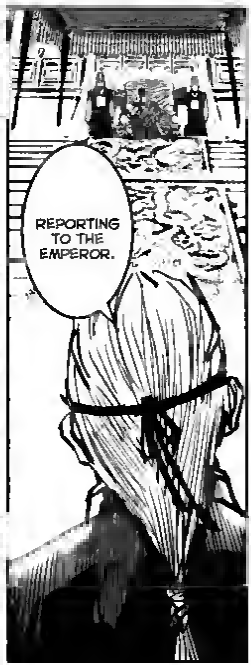
He used to be an official in charge of guerilla warfare. A year ago, he was tasked with putting down several uprisings, and he won many victories. He was introduced to the emperor by Qianning, and because of his bravery and battle experience, caught the emperor's eye. He is now in command of the emperor's personal guards.

Commander-in-Chief

Qianning

He used to be the servant of the eunuch, Qianneng, but because of his skill with the bow, he caught the emperor's eye. He later became a companion of the emperor and was elevated in status. He is now the head of the Uniformed Guards (a royal guard in charge of protecting the emperor).

BECAUSE OF AN OLD WOUND, MY FACE IS DISFIGURED. I FEAR IT WOULD BE IMPOLITE TO SHOW IT BEFORE THE EMPEROR. PLEASE FORGIVE MY OFFENSE.



HOW DID YOU GET THIS WOUND? DID YOU FIGHT SOME FIERCE BEAST?
EVERYONE, RISE. THIS ISN'T THE PALACE. EVERYONE HERE IS A MARTIAL ARTIST. LET US DISPENSE WITH FORMALITY.
HOW SO? WAS HE STRONGER THAN YOU?
THIS HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO. I WAS PRACTICING MARTIAL ARTS WHEN SOMEONE IN OUR STYLE LOST CONTROL.
I NOW SWEEP THIS PERSON'S GRAVE EVERY YEAR.
WHEN I GOT HIT, I COULDN'T SUPPRESS MY URGE TO KILL, AND LATER LOST CONTROL AS WELL.

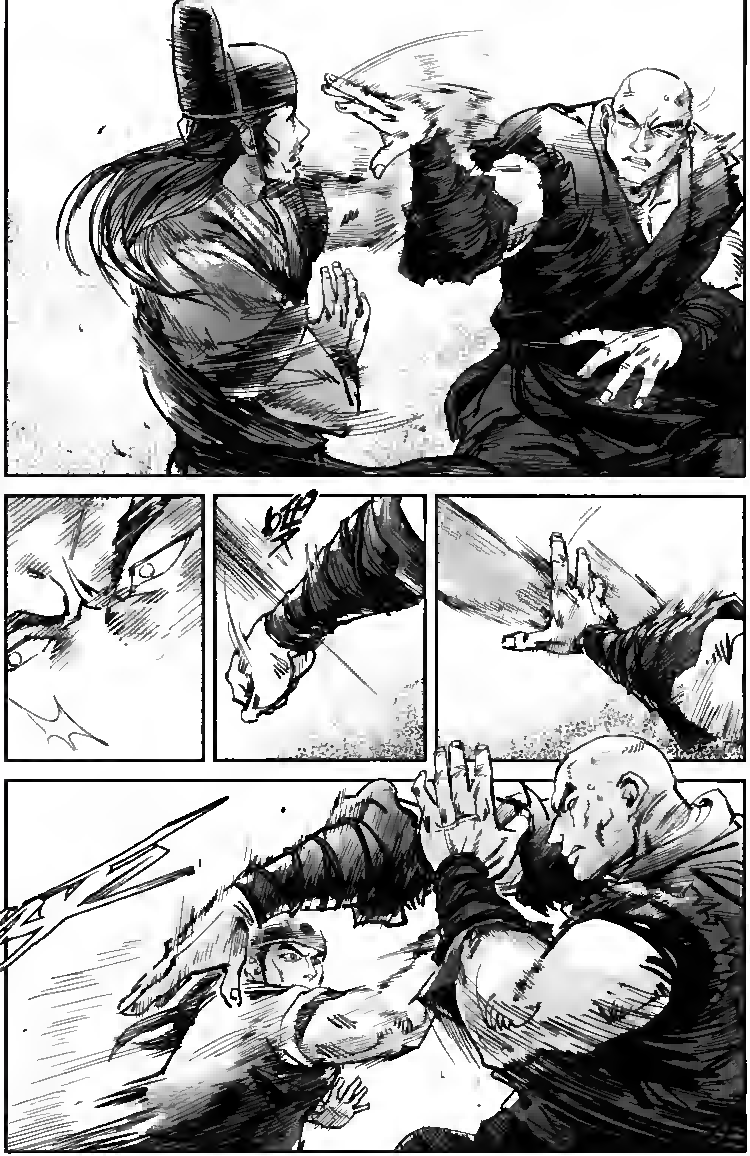
I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.
GOOD!
GET READY...
Get ready for the duel!

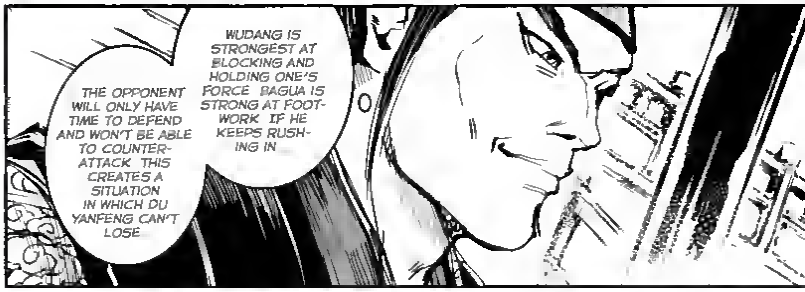
Du Yanfeng
He's from the Nine Formal Style's Bagua Style "Eight Trigrams". They specialize in hand-to-hand martial arts, and he is one of the best out of thousands
With his Bagua Deep Thunder Palm, he can easily break apart a stone slab half a foot thick. He represents the Uniformed Guard in this duel

WUDANG STYLE DISCIPLE, CHU LANTIAN.

DU YANFENG'S ONE OF MY MEN...
WE SHALL HAVE A LITTLE WAGER.
WHICH SIDE DO YOU THINK WILL WIN?
I'M TOO EMBAR-RASSED TO SAY.
.....

Let the duel begin!




WUDANG IS STRONGEST AT BLOCKING AND HOLDING ONE'S FORCE. BAGUA IS STRONG AT FOOTWORK. IF HE KEEPS RUSHING IN
THE OPPONENT WILL ONLY HAVE TIME TO DEFEND AND WON'T BE ABLE TO COUNTER-ATTACK. THIS CREATES A SITUATION IN WHICH DU YANFENG CAN'T LOSE

AFTER A WHILE, THE EMPEROR WILL YELL STOP AND DU YANFENG WILL BE CROWNED THE WINNER

IT'S ABOUT TIME.

HIT!
I've been fooled! This guy's footwork is faster than mine!

AH!
DID HE FINALLY MADE A HIT?

The opponent focusing all his strength. This is the ideal scenario for Taichi.
Chu Lantian doesn't struggle against Du Yanfeng's pull, but instead, sends Du Yanfeng's arm back at him
When normal people lose their balance, they instantly try to restore it.

Du Yanfeng's a martial artist, and his reaction is faster and stronger!
Chu Lantian perfectly anticipates Du Yanfeng's reaction and pulls him forward.

Du Yanfeng's balance and power are in Chu Lantian's hands...

For Du Yanfeng, the ground feels like the deck of a ship during a dreadful storm He's lost his sense of balance and even feels dizzy
The ground, obviously can't be moving--this is all part of Chu Lantian's Taichi Fists force dispersal technique
Constantly disrupting and destroying his center of balance, Chu Lantian's swinging Du Yanfeng around like a wooden doll

WONDER-
FUL!

DIE!

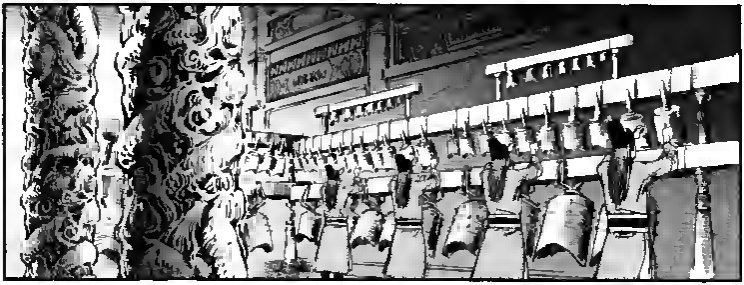
ENOUGH.

Taichi Fists Formula
Uproot and destroy

火
砰

GOOD MATCH!

EVERYONE ELSE IS DISMISSED. SHI XINGHAO, COME HERE!
INTERE-STING!



SHI XINGHAO, FOR YOU TO HAVE DECEIVED US...
...I DON'T UNDER-STAND.

I WAS WORRIED THAT MY DISCIPLE MIGHT LOSE CONTROL AND INJURE DU YANFENG.
MY UNIFORMED GUARDS MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE MERE CHILDREN.
BEFORE, WE CLEARLY SAW YOU LOOKING NERVOUS--BUT IN YOUR EYES...

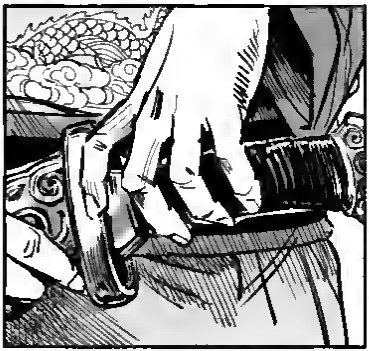
THAT DISCIPLE NAMED CHU, WHAT LEVEL IS HE?

.....

THIRTY!
IF WE HAD THIRTY OF YOUR MEN IN OUR ARMY, IT MIGHT RIVAL HAVING THOSE THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS AND HORSES.
GIVEN HIS SKILL LEVEL, THERE COULD BE THIRTY MORE LIKE HIM IN WUDANG
CHU LANTIAN LEARNED TAICHI FISTS HE'S CONSIDERED TO BE HIGHER-LEVEL, BUT IS ONLY 50-50 WITH BLADES
JIANGBIN, WHAT DO YOU THINK?
COMPARED TO ONE-ON-ONE MARTIAL ARTS, I BELIEVE THEY ARE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT THINGS
THE BATTLEFIELD IS MORE ABOUT TROOP MOVEMENT AND EVERYONE WORKING TOGETHER

TO RAISE THIRTY MARTIAL ARTISTS WOULD REQUIRE MORE EFFORT AND TIME THAN IT WOULD TAKE TO TRAIN A THOUSAND FOR THE ARMY
TO USE MARTIAL ARTS IN BATTLE JUST ISN'T WORTH IT.
HE'S JUST A MARTIAL ARTIST, BUT HE CAN EMIT PRESSURE I'VE NEVER FELT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD...
YOU ARE AN ASSISTANT HEADMASTER IN WUDANG. HOW DOES CHU LANTIAN COMPARE TO YOU?

TEN MOVES? HARD TO IMAGINE
IN MY EYES, HE CAN'T LAST MORE THAN TEN MOVES
THEN... SUPPOSE YOU WANTED TO ASSASSINATE US IN THIS BAOFANG LEOPARD ROOM... NO ONE COULD STOP YOU?
WE WOULD CERTAINLY DIE?



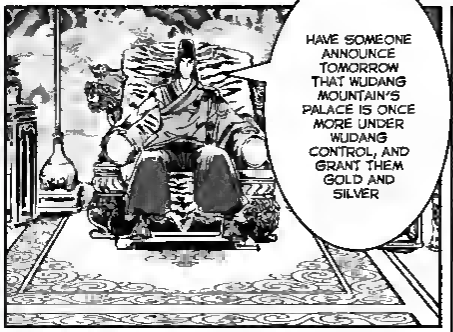
INSOLENCE!
...This dangerous pressure, just like that of a beast!

.....
WHY ARE YOU RAISING YOUR VOICE FOR?!
I BEGAN THIS JEST. DO NOT BLAME HIM.
IF WUDANG'S MARTIAL ARTS ARE SO UNIQUE, CAN WE LEARN IT?

WITH ALL YOUR TALENT AND ENERGY, IF YOU DEEPLY RESOLVE TO STUDY MARTIAL ARTS, THEN WHY NOT?
BUT THE PATH OF A MARTIAL ARTIST IS ABOUT FOCUS AND CONCENTRATION. ONLY THEN CAN YOU IMPROVE.
IF YOU TRULY WISH TO LEARN, IT WOULD DISTRACT YOU FROM RULING AND WOULD PROVE TO BE A MISFORTUNE FOR THE WORLD.
DO NOT UNDERESTIMATE OUR TALENT. WE SINGLE-HANDEDLY CAPTURED THIS LEOPARD.
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE A FEW HIGH-LEVEL DISCIPLES HERE TO ACCOMPANY US?
THEN...
AS MILITARY MEN, THEY HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS; THEY HAVE NEITHER THE TIME NOR THE RESOURCES TO PURSUE THE ZENITH OF MARTIAL ARTS.
YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DU YANFENG AND CHU LANTIAN. BUT THIS ISN'T DU YANFENG'S FAULT.

NO MATTER HOW FIERCE A LEOPARD MAY BE, ONCE IT ENTERS A CAGE
IT BECOMES NOTHING BUT A PET.
I WANT THE CHANCE TO SEE HOW YOU WOULD FARE AGAINST THOUSANDS OF DAZI RIDERS.

THEN WHY DON'T YOU AND YOUR DISCIPLES STAY HERE FOR A FEW MORE DAYS...
...SO WE MAY ENJOY MORE OF WUDANG'S TECHNIQUES?
YOU HAVE A POINT TOO


HAVE SOMEONE ANNOUNCE TOMORROW THAT WUDANG MOUNTAIN'S PALACE IS ONCE MORE UNDER WUDANG CONTROL, AND GRANT THEM GOLD AND SILVER

AS THE EMPEROR WISHES.

LONG LIVE THE EMPEROR.

I'LL ACCEPT THAT YOU DON'T PUT MUCH STOCK IN FORMALITIES
TAKE CARE.
BUT DON'T THINK THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T KNOW WHAT WUDANG HAS BEEN DOING IN THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD.

OFFICIAL QIAN, OF COURSE THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN GET PAST THE UNIFORMED GUARDS' EYES?
BUT THIS IS A MARTIAL ARTS WORLD MATTER AND DOESN'T CONCERN THE GOVERNMENT
I UNDERSTAND THIS. WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK THE GOVERNMENT HASN'T INTERFERED?
DON'T THINK THAT WE APPROVE, WE'RE MERELY TURNING A BLIND EYE
YOU SHOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO CROSS THE BOUNDARIES OF THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD. IF THE WIND SHIFTS, YOU'LL BE SWALLOWED UP BY YOUR FIRE, AND THERE'LL BE NO PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR WUDANG TO CALL HOME
SIGH... WHAT PRATTLE ABOUT BEING THE BEST IN THE WORLD?
THESE MARTIAL ARTISTS. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT GOES ON IN THEIR HEADS.
...Of course you don't understand.

Huff
Huff
Huff
QINCHENG SWORD TECHNIQUES?
YOU CAN'T EVEN DEFEAT MY LEFT ARM!
IT'S NOTHING BUT GARBAGE.
LET GO!
Huff
NEWCOMER, DON'T FIGHT ANYMORE!
SENIOR XI, FORGIVE HIM!

huff
huff
SENIOR XI ..
... PLEASE EDUCATE ME!
ENOUGH, XIAOYAN.
OKAY!

THERE ARE THINGS THAT ONCE BROKEN CAN NEVER BE REPAIRED
SENIOR JIANG?
Huff
Huff
TCH!
Ot

DIDN'T YOU JUST ENTER THE MOUNTAINS? AREN'T YOU TIRED? AND YOU PICKED A FIGHT WITH THE NOTORIOUSLY BRUTAL XIAOYAN.
THERE AREN'T MANY THAT GOT BEATEN BY HIM AS BADLY AS YOU DID
THANK YOU.
HE JUST RECEIVED NEWS OF HIS BROTHER'S DEATH. CAN'T BLAME HIM...
BUT SOMEDAY, I'LL BE STRONGER THAN HIM!
HOHO. WHAT TYPE OF MARTIAL ARTS WOULD YOU TRY TO LEARN TO BEAT HIM?

THE SWORD!
SURE. I USED TO LEARN THE SWORD TOO.
BUT I WARN YOU, WUDANG'S SWORD ISN'T EASY TO LEARN.
I UNDER-STAND.
OKAY. DRINK AND WE'LL PRACTICE TOMORROW.

IS THIS WINE OR MEDICINE?
THIS IS "XIONG SHENG WINE"
THE FORMULA IS A SECRET TAKEN FROM THOSE EVIL STYLES
HOW CAN YOU LEARN MARTIAL ARTS WHEN YOU'RE DRUNK?
WE CALL IT WINE, BUT IT'S ACTUALLY MEDICINE. YOU WON'T GET DRUNK OFF IT.

THERE'S A RULE THAT FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS, NEWCOMERS MUST DRINK THIS BEFORE TRAINING.
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT.
ONCE YOU DRINK THIS...
YOU WON'T FEAR PAIN
YOU WON'T FEAR INJU-RIES
You won't fear DEATH.

I ASSEMBLED EVERYONE HERE BECAUSE...
...THE HEADMASTER DESCENDED THE MOUNTAIN.

I JUST RETURNED FROM THE SUMMIT.
THE HEADMASTER GRABBED HIS SWORD AND LEFT THE MOUNTAIN FIVE OR SIX DAYS AGO.
I ALREADY GUESSED THERE WOULD COME A DAY LIKE THIS, BUT I WAS TOO FRIGHTENED TO SAY IT...
WUDANG'S PLAN TO ATTACK THE VARIOUS STYLES
ONLY THE ASSISTANT HEADMASTERS AND THE HEADMASTER KNOW
ASIDE FROM THAT, IT'S WRITTEN IN THIS SCROLL.

THIS NIGHT, ALL OF YOU SHALL BEAR WITNESS THAT I OPENED THE SCROLL
IF THE HEADMASTER WANTS TO BLAME ANYONE, THEN HE SHALL BLAME ME ALONE.
IF ANY OTHER ASSISTANT HEADMASTERS WERE HERE, IT WOULD BE A SIMPLE MATTER...
BUT IT HAD TO OCCUR NOW...

FANZO-
NG...
...ARE
YOU
TIRED?
YOU'RE THE
FASTEST ON
FOOT OR ON
HORSEBACK.
YOU SHOULD
HEAD OUT
NOW.
WE CAN'T
USE TOO
MANY PEOPLE
OR THE NEWS
WILL GET
OUT.
AFTER I
PREPARE,
I'LL LEAVE
AS WELL.
HEAD DOWN
THE PASS TO
SEE IF YOU
CAN CATCH UP
TO HIM. IF
NOT, GATHER
INFORMATION
ON WHERE HE
WENT.
IF THERE'S
NEWS HE
ENTERED THE
PASS, GO WEST
AND CHASE
AFTER HIM. IF
NOT, WAIT FOR
ME AT THE

SENIOR GUI, WHY DON'T WE...
... ASK THE ASSISTANT HEADMASTER TO GO?
I'M SAYING, THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LEFT ON WUDANG MOUNTAIN...
The third assistant headmaster, Wudang's taboo

ONLY THE HEADMASTER CAN SUBDUE HIM. NOW THAT THE HEAD-MASTER ISN'T HERE, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO
NO. IF WE LET HIM OUT, UNTOLD THINGS WOULD OCCUR...

YOU ALL KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.
HE MUST [illegible]R DISCOVER THAT THE HEADMASTER ISN'T HERE

YOU GUYS HAVE TO STAY ON WUDANG MOUNTAIN I CAN'T BRING YOU ALL CHEN DAIXIU FOLLOW ME
TO BE SAFE CONTACT THE SHOU SHE DAO'S DISCIPLE TO TELL THE OTHER ASSISTANT MASTERS TO RETURN TO [illegible]DANG
I WILL ALSO BRING FIVE OF THE AUXILIARY ARMY AND FANZONG, A TOTAL OF EIGHT

HE SHOULD AT LEAST BRING SOMEONE WITH HIM...
IF HE WANTED TO LEAVE...
HE'S WUDANG'S INVINCIBLE HEAD-MASTER!
DON'T JUDGE HIM!
天下無敵
WHAT HE WANTS TO DO, OR HOW HE DOES IT...
NO ONE CAN STOP HIM.

LET ME GO TOO.
I'M A WUDANG DISCIPLE I KNOW WUDANG'S RULES.
WE'RE HEADING OUT ON BUSINESS; THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR YOU TO RELIEVE THE PAIN OF LOSING YOUR BROTHER.
IF YOU DON'T ALLOW ME, I'LL GO IN SECRET, AND YOU CAN PUNISH ME WHEN WE GET BACK.

The Wudang Style's twenty years of raising tough, proud martial artists. Gui Danlei takes pride in this.

But never could he imagine, that in this group of men...

There could be a traitor.

BLOOD AND STEEL

Author: 高靖夫 > Jozev
Manhua by 夢馬工作室 > Unicorn Studios
Comic Design > Felix Ip
Script Toe Yuen

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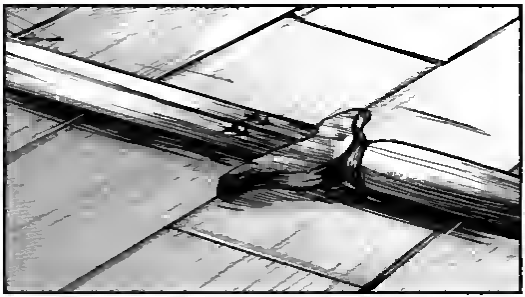
- Chapter 24 -
"Jianxian
Guan"

IDIOT, DON'T!
PLEASE, CAN'T YOU BELIEVE ME FOR ONCE?
THE CHIEF SAID I CAN. MY MASTER SAID I CAN. IF YOU DON'T TRUST THEM, YOU CAN ASK BROTHER MA. I CAN DO IT!

NOT WONG SINIU THE FARMER!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I'VE CHANGED MY NAME! IT'S SHIXIN THE SWORDSMAN!
SINIU, PLEASE LISTEN TO ME. DON'T GO!
MOM, DAD, YOU DIDN'T SEE HOW HARD I TRAINED FOR TWO YEARS, THE IMPROVEMENTS I MADE...
THERE'S NO ONE IN THE VILLAGE WHO CAN BEAT ME NOW!
BELIEVE ME, I CAN MAKE IT.

I'M GOING.
SON, REMEMBER OUR DOORS ARE ALWAYS OPEN FOR YOU...

IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS WAY OF THINKING THAT YOU'LL BE STUCK HERE FOREVER!
I HAVEN'T STARTED YET, AND YOU ALREADY THINK I'LL LOSE!
I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT I WASN'T BORN TO FARM, BUT TO HOLD A SWORD! TO HOLD THE HUASHAN STYLE'S SWORD!



哦哦

NEXT!
Luo Taiji
Huashan Style Disciple, Jianxian Guan Inspector
Chen Taikui
Huashan Style Disciple, Jianxian Guan Guard

HEYANG DISTRICT, WONG SHIXIN!
HERE...
.....

COME!
Ouch .. It hurts...
SIGH.
DON'T WASTE MY TIME. NEXT!

BEING STRUCK DOWN ISN'T A HUMILIATION, IT'S A GIVEN. IF IT WASN'T, WHY WOULD YOU COME HERE TO LEARN?
BUT TO FEAR BEING STRUCK DOWN, YOU NOT ONLY HAVE NO RIGHT TO LEARN THE HUASHAN
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO STEP FOOT IN JIANXIAN
Jianxian Guan, it was a fitting name—
This was the place to see one's own nature.

There is an ancient saying—"Fists come out of Shaolin, but Swords belong to Huashan." Ranked among the current Nine Great Martial Styles, Huashan's sword techniques were known throughout the martial arts world. Having a 300-year history, they created over forty-eight different sword techniques and sword formations, putting these alongside the ranks of Shaolin's Seventy-two techniques. They're known as the ancestors of the sword.
Because of Huashan Style's reputation and name, there are too many people seeking to learn their martial arts. This is why Jianxian Guan was built at the foot of the mountain. Every seventh and twenty-second day of each month, Jianxian Guan is opened up for those who seek to challenge or learn.
Since its creation, there haven't been more than twenty who've made it past its walls. But passing the walls and impress Huashan's main body, Zhen Yue Gong, there was none.

The pain of a wooden sword striking your body, is it greater than the pain you feel right now?
What're you afraid of?
Wong Shixin's self-confidence had completely crumbled ...
Because he's discovered how insignificant he is in the martial arts world.
I haven't even started, but think I'm doomed to fail. I'm someone who's only fit to handle a hoe... An idiot.

見性館

...Human?

怪見

Is that person...

怪見

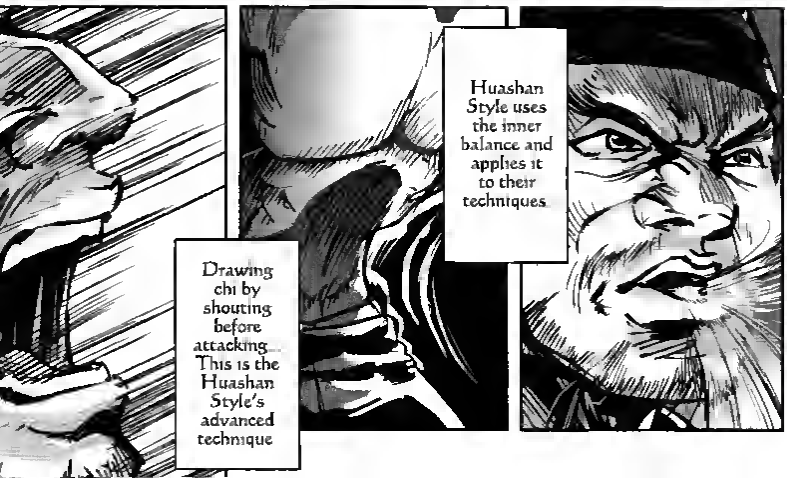
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
TO LEARN? OR TO CHALLENGE?

HUASHAN STYLE'S "ZHEN YUE GONG" IS ON THE WEST PEAK, RIGHT?
DO I PASS THROUGH HERE?
YOU MISSPOKE. IT'S NOT "PASSING" THROUGH HERE.
IT'S "GETTING" THROUGH HERE.
DON'T WASTE MY TIME.
JUST TAKE ME THERE.

He's not a normal person...
But so what if he isn't?
Our whole Huashan Sword Style isn't made up of normal people either!
IF YOU CAN BEAT ME, I'LL TAKE YOU UP!
TAKE IT!

WHAT...? BARE-HANDED?
THERE HAVE BEEN THREE DEATHS IN JIANXIAN GUAN.
BUT YOURS WILL BE THE FIRST BARE-HANDED DEATH!
LEAVE A NAME. AT LEAST WE'LL KNOW WHERE TO SEND THE BODY.

REMEMBER THIS DAY.
TO HAVE FOUGHT WITH ME, WILL BE YOUR GREATEST HONOR.


Huashan Style uses the inner balance and applies it to their techniques.
Drawing chi by shouting before attacking... This is the Huashan Style's advanced technique

ดึ๋ง!

HE WAS THE ONE WHO SAID HE WOULD KILL ME. HE CHALLENGED ME TO A DEATH MATCH. I ACCEPTED.
THIS ISN'T A DUEL!
I ALREADY SAID NOT TO WASTE MY TIME. SHOW ME THE WAY.
Chen Taikun was one of the highest-level disciples in Huashan, but he died at his opponent's hand.
Terror spreads through Luo Tan. He doesn't even dare grab the wooden sword next to him.
The contempt shown to Wong Shixin is now reflected upon himself.

Climb the mountain and tell the elders!
IF YOU HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO, THEN FOLLOW ME.
I'M HEADING UP HUASHAN AND NEED SOME IMPARTIAL WITNESSES.

Wong Shixin's frozen heart is now burning--his blood feels like it's boiling within him
He decided that even if he died, he would follow
Others are thinking the exact same thing as Wong Shixin. They somehow know that if they reject this opportunity...
They will miss a once-in-a-lifetime experience...

That man had the ability... to fire up those around him...
IT CAN'T BE...

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